

**REMARKS**

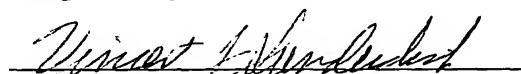
Entry of the amendments to the specification, claims and abstract before examination of the application is respectfully requested. These claims patentably define over the art of record.

If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038741.52686US).

Respectfully submitted,

August 25, 2003

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vincent J. Sunderdick  
Registration No. 29,004

CROWELL & MORING, LLP  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

VJS:adb